

Approved as Amended 8/12/15
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date July 8, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Tom Isaacson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Winfree	Jim Reeder	Steve Armstead	Mark Gershman	Kelly Wasserbach
Don D'Amico	Laurie Deiter	Eric Fairlee	Deryn Wagner	Juliet Bonnell
John D'Amico	Jim Schmidt	Bethany Collins	Brian Anacker	Alyssa Frideres
Alycia Knutson	Phil Yates	Cecil Fenio	Deonne VanderWoude	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Frances Hartogh said on page three, under Return to the Board, it should read, “Frances said she does not feel comfortable making a decision because the inventory report was released at the meeting; ...” Shelley Dunbar said in the same paragraph, it should read, “Shelley said that while the public may not be following the timeline of this process, ...” Tom Isaacson corrected the spelling of the last name, “Kreutzer.”

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from June 15, 2015 as amended. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed four to zero; Kevin Bracy Knight was absent for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Ray Bridge, on behalf of the Boulder County Audubon Society, said the North Trail Study Area (TSA) report was thorough and well put together. It contains a large amount of material and was only just released. This document will take some time to go through. Trying to squeeze everything into the current timeline is not a good idea. In order for the public to be able to give meaningful feedback, the timeline needs to be extended.

Mike Barrow, on behalf of the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA), said the North TSA report was very thorough, but due to the size of this document it has been a challenge to go through. He said within the natural resource inventory, the methodology that depicts buffer zones is problematic. He said he was confused by the recreation opportunities spectrum; the metrics were too simplistic and did not apply. This report also does not address the feedback from the workshop assessment that the trails are poor; if trails are in better condition it is more likely people will stay on them and away from sensitive resources.

Karen Hollweg, Boulder, said the North TSA report is impressive, but she agrees that it will take some time to read through. She said there is a lot of substance in this document which will take time to digest. This report will inform decisions about the North TSA and it is important to allow adequate time to process it so informed decisions can be made. It would be ideal to do this in smaller chunks.

Tony Gannaway, Boulder, said the comment period is too short. There needs to be time allowed for people to read this report and then speak to it.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Matters from Staff

General Project Updates

Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager, and Kelly Wasserbach, Engineering Manager, highlighted the ongoing staff projects including the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Dog Waste Composting Pilot Program.

Frances asked what concerns the public has had with the trailhead compost program. Kelly said comments included containers running out of compostable bags and the difficulty in opening the bins; both of these are being addressed. Frances asked if staff has reached out to the Daily Camera for their bags to become compostable. Jim said staff did awhile back, but can reach out again.

Integrated Pest Management Annual Report

Laurie Deiter and Eric Fairlee, Natural Resource Specialists, gave a presentation on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Annual Report.

Molly Davis asked if the Ertl property still has Russian Olive. Eric said yes, staff has made a lot of progress, but it will still take a long time to fully eradicate it. Molly asked if the IPM work on the Johnson Property will delay the Agricultural Plan and the organic certification. Tracy said staff is still working on the Agricultural Plan but will look into this. Frances asked if invasive species are spread by muddy recreational use. Laurie said there may be a small percentage that can be spread this way. Frances asked if native species make better habitat. Eric said, generally, yes; however, ecology is complicated so sometimes it depends on the other species in the area. Frances asked if the Northern Leopard Frog is on the Endangered Species list. Laurie said it is not because it was determined to be too genetically similar to an East Coast frog.

North TSA and Youth Engagement Update

Deryn Wagner and Steve Armstead, Environmental Planners, gave a presentation reviewing the progress and next steps on the youth engagement strategy for the North TSA.

Shelley asked who is invited to the workshop. Deryn said staff is focusing on attracting all ages. Frances asked if Wonderland Lake is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. Deryn said yes.

Frances asked how difficult it is to get accepted into the Junior Ranger program. Jim said there is a lot of interest, and it is a competitive process.

Tom asked how much the North TSA planning will delay the Agricultural Plan. Mark Gershman said staff is proposing to bring the Agricultural Plan before the Board in April 2016. Molly said she is in favor of moving expert panels into September; this would allow for more involvement opportunities. Shelley asked if there are other opportunities for public involvement that maybe did not show up in the timeline. Steve said staff will continue to use Inspire Boulder, but people are always welcome to submit comments through the website. Shelley asked if a larger window of time can be allotted for comments. Steve said the challenge is to stay on track and incorporate comments into the scenarios, so it would be difficult to extend the timelines by too much. He said they can work on making it clearer on the website how the public can be involved in the process. Tom said if staff is sensing they are falling behind it would be better to inform the Board of that sooner rather than later so they can discuss priorities.

Enhanced Voice & Sight Monitoring Update

Deonne VanderWoude, Human Dimensions Program Coordinator, gave an update on the baseline condition results from the dog regulation study conducted in 2014.

Frances asked if dog waste bags left on the side of the trail were considered to be in compliance. Deonne said no. Frances noted that the low compliance with the regulations for chasing wildlife is disheartening. Tom asked how locations are chosen, and where the location of future studies will be. Deonne said that the same locations from this study will be used in the future. Tom asked if this will show whether the amount of people with dogs on OSMP has increased or decreased. Deonne and Mark said that a different visitor survey queries along those lines. Molly asked if there is monitoring that captures information about people who voluntarily leash their dogs. Deonne said no.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Frances asked staff to send information on ranger staff numbers. Shelley asked if the dead cow found on Open Space was in association with the Open Space grazing project. Jim said yes.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of approximately 12.5 acres of land, mineral estate, two houses and associated outbuildings along with the disposal of approximately 2.28 acres or less of land including two houses and associated outbuildings located at 5678 Baseline Road from the Ernest J. Coleman Trust for Open Space and Mountain Parks purposes in the amount of \$950,000. An additional \$50,000 is being requested for site improvements. The disposal portion of this Agenda Item is pursuant to Section 177 of the Boulder City Charter.

John D'Amico, Property Agent, gave a presentation on a possible acquisition and disposal along Baseline Road.

Tom asked if the two houses have the same address. John said they are in the same location but have different addresses. Frances asked how staff decides which structures to keep versus dispose. John said staff looks to see if keeping it supports the OSMP charter. Frances asked if staff is able to restrict development on the disposed property/structures so that it does not negatively affect the surrounding Open Space. John said more than likely and the agricultural staff will help determine the encumbrances on this property.

Public Comment

Karen Hollweg, Boulder, said it appears that this area has been plowed and she is curious as to what the use of that might be. John said this area is a hayfield, and not plowed.

Return to the Board

Frances asked if there is potential for large structures to be built on land that was disposed. Shelley said the county typically has tight restrictions on buildings, so it likely would not be an issue.

Motion

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve a motion recommending that the Boulder City Council approve the purchase of approximately 12.5 acres of land, mineral estate, two houses and associated outbuildings from the Ernest J. Coleman Trust for \$950,000, along with \$50,000 for immediate property improvements, both for Open Space and Mountain Parks purposes and the disposal of approximately 2.28 acres or less of that land including the two houses and associated outbuildings located at 5678 and 5688 Baseline Road. The disposal will include negotiation of an acceptable purchase price and appropriate encumbrances on the disposed property to protect the open space values of the remaining parcel. The disposal portion of this Agenda Item is pursuant to Section 177 of the Boulder City Charter. Molly Davis seconded. This motion passed four to zero; Kevin Bracy Knight was absent for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Discussion of proposed revisions and update to the Open Space Board of Trustees Easement Request Policy.

Jim Schmidt, Property Agent, presented the current easement request policy and suggestions for possible changes.

Molly asked why the interview process would be removed. Jim said to date, this is something that has never been done. Molly asked that the disposal language be included in this document. Shelley asked how often someone has an urgent need for a disposal. Jim said fairly infrequently; staff will try to accommodate the request if possible. Shelley said the non-refund aspect of the application fee could be clarified.

Public Comment

Karen Hollweg, Boulder, said that to help put the easement application fee into perspective, if her Homeowners Association ever needed an easement it could never afford the proposed fee.

Return to the Board

Tom said he is okay with the timeline, but staff should still have discretion if that needs to be adjusted. Shelley agreed that the ability to waive the timeline for a credible urgency is important. Frances said she agrees with the 45 days, but the policy does not need to have the leeway written in it.

Frances said the application fee is very high; it would be better to have an amount that is defensible. Jim suggested the Board add some language which would allow for director discretion. Shelley said it may be hard to understand a change in fee from \$25,000 to \$0, and with the potential for OSMP to be viewed as biased; she said this is a process that should be revenue neutral. A smaller amount will accomplish the same level of deterrence towards frivolous applicants. Molly suggested a grant possibility if the amount was too high. Tom said he agrees that the fee be a set amount and the revenue should be neutral; when appropriate, staff can have discretion to lower or waive the fees. Staff thanked the Board for their input; staff will bring this matter back to the Board as an action item at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case and Alycia Knutson.

APPROVED BY:

Shelley Dunbar
Board Chair

DATE